

REMARKS

Claims in the Application. Claim 24 has been added to this application. Claims 6, 11, and 15-16 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 9 and 13 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-14 and 17-24 are active in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Examiner's Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over *Kraglund*. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 7-10, 12, 14, and 16-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 97/22563 ("*Kragland*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,617,045 ("*Bronshtein*"). This ground of rejection is traversed in light of the amendment to the claims.

Kragland does not disclose the use of ashes or slags coming from the combustion of paper sludge or wood chips. *Bronshtein* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Kragland*. Paper sludge and wood chips are materials which are available on the market at low prices. Furthermore, the combustion of paper sludge or wood chips does not emit fossil carbon dioxide which is a great environmental benefit.

Furthermore, in general, ashes and slags from the combustion of paper sludge are highly contaminated with pollutants. Therefore, such ashes and slags have to be dampened on special land fields as hazardous waste. This is extremely expensive since the capacity of land fields capable to damp hazardous waste is limited. The immediate application has provided a way to dispose this hazardous waste in an economical and ecologically worthwhile manner is provided.

The hazardous components of the ashes are sealed by the glass melt so that these wastes do not form any environmental risk. Especially today this is a big advantage of the inventive method.

The same is true for wood chips coming from the timber industry. Often these wood chips are also contaminated with hazardous materials, so that the ashes and slags coming from the combustion of this material have to be dampened as hazardous waste, too.

On the other hand, due to their chemical composition the claimed ashes and slags not only can substitute a part of the correction material in the production of molded pieces but surprisingly can also extremely favorable influence the development of the strength of the molded pieces. This effect is to be attributed on one side to latent hydraulic properties of the mentioned ashes and/or to the catalytic effect on the bonding agents that are used and finally also to their grain size.

In light of the amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of the claims.

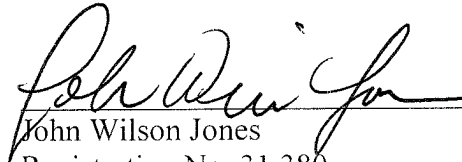
Examiner's Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over *Kraglund* and *Faulmann* and *Klein*.

The Examiner has further rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kraglund* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,402,801 ("*Faulmann*") and Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kraglund* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,565,645 ("*Klein*"). These grounds of rejection are traversed since neither *Faulmann* nor *Klein* cure the deficiencies noted above in regards to *Kraglund*. Reconsideration of these rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusions. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned should he deem it prudent to expedite the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 19, 2008


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